

News from the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Spring 2011

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Public Comments Welcome on Proposed WDO Amendments

Proposed amendments are divided into 8 categories: administration/clarification/simplification; Designated Erosion Control Inspector program; wetland issues/enhancements/clarifications; runoff volume reduction program enhancements; IEPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and USEPA effluent limitation guidelines; drainile and maintainable outlet; floodplain issues/enhancements/clarifications; and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. There are over 80 amendments to be considered.

The Technical Advisory Committee held more than 40 meetings over a three year period to discuss and come to consensus on the proposed amendments. See the [Public Comment Packet](#) for amendments and how to submit comments.

Geocache - [Caching In On Stormwater BMPs](#)

Learn about stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) by completing SMC's multi-cache. The objective is to find 4 different caches and learn about stormwater BMPs, which are acceptable practices designed to improve water quality by preventing or reducing stormwater runoff pollution, conserving water and recharging the aquifer. Link to the [Stormwater BMP Geocache website](#) to get started on your geocaching trek! Photo l-r: Geochers Ron and Kathie Groll, and Kurt Woolford on the Central Permit Facility's green roof.



\$951,000 in USEPA Grants to Fund Stream Restoration Project, H&H Study in Dead/Kellogg Subwatersheds

SMC received two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants totaling \$951,000 to study the hydrology of the coastal wetlands of the Glen Flora Ravine in Waukegan and to restore the Dead Dog Creek in the Village of Winthrop Harbor. See [USEPA grants](#) for project overviews and benefits. Grant funding will support 23 jobs. For more information, contact [Mike Novotney](#), 847.377.7715.

Three Homes Razed in Gurnee; More Buyouts on the Way

The Village of Gurnee razed three flood-prone homes along the Des Plaines River in January as part of a \$1.6 million grant SMC secured from FEMA and IEMA. Six more homes in Round Lake Heights and in unincorporated Ela, Shields and Wauconda townships are planned to be included in this round of buyouts. SMC is waiting to hear from IEMA on three grant applications to purchase and demolish the Gurnee Grade School District 56 and homes in Lindenhurst, Round Lake Beach and unincorporated Cuba Township. SMC began its buyout program in 1998 with the purchase of two homes in Sturm Subdivision, Lake Zurich.

IEMA Awards \$70,000 Grant for ANHMP Update

The [Illinois Emergency Management Agency](#) awarded SMC a \$70,000 grant to update the 2006 Lake County All-Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (ANHMP). FEMA requires the plan be updated every 5 years. All Lake County communities are invited to the table to update the plan and to adopt the revised plan, which makes each participating community eligible for mitigation funding following a declared natural disaster in the county. Link to [All-Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan](#) for upcoming planning meetings and to view the 2006 ANHMP.



Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

500 W. Winchester Road, Suite 201

Libertyville, Illinois 60048

M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

847.377.7700

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Seeking a [Watershed Resource Professional](#) to join our team.

Skokie River Consortium Launches Newsletter

The Consortium, made up of municipalities, drainage/sanitary and forest preserve districts, and county, state and federal agencies, gather quarterly to effectively and efficiently address common and necessary flood mitigation, stormwater management and green infrastructure improvements in the watershed. The Consortium launched its first newsletter edition in February to keep watershed residents informed on projects and member and partner activities. See [Fall/Winter 2010-11 newsletter](#).

North Mill Creek Stakeholders Providing Needed Insight

The North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal stakeholders have been gathering monthly since 2010 to provide local information on water quality, flooding and natural resources as part of the bi-state watershed planning process. Upcoming meeting topics include: March 30 - stormwater Best Management Practices; April - watershed education, outreach and funding; May - presentation of the draft plan. The development of plan objectives are part of every meeting. All stakeholders are welcome to attend upcoming meetings to provide that local perspective on living and working in the watershed and to provide suggestions on how to preserve and improve it. Follow the [North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal watershed planning meetings](#).

SMC Board Approves 13 Cost-Share Grants for 2011

Commissioners approved \$146,000 in annual Watershed Management Board (WMB) cost-share grants for 13 projects totalling \$2,470,185. The WMB cost-share grant program for projects began in 1993 and has leveraged over \$13 million in projects. See [2011 WMB](#) for descriptions and project location map.

Upcoming Meetings, Workshops, Etc.

[Municipal Advisory Committee](#) Meeting: March 18, 9- 11 a.m., Lake County Division of Transportation conference room, 600 W. Winchester Rd., Libertyville. Topics: NPDES program and Year 8 reporting, beaver ecology and management.

[A Workshop for Homeowners Associations](#): Maintenance (Techniques or Practices) for Subdivision Drainage Systems - April 12, 2011, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Central Permit Facility, Libertyville. This is a free workshop for HOAs and property owners responsible for maintaining detention ponds, wetlands and natural areas. Please RSVP to [Darcy Hertel](#), 847.377.7705.

[Des Plaines River Clean-Up](#): April 30, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Independence Grove. Sponsored by the Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership and Des Plaines River Trailkeepers. Help clean-up the river with brush clearing, garlic mustard pulling, garbage pick-up. Community service hours for students. Free T-shirts, gloves, lunch for first 50 rsvp's. RSVP to coordinator@upperdesplainesriver.org or call Nancy Schumm at 847.975.8391. Tools, training, and refreshments will be provided.

[Indian Creek/Bull Creek](#) Watershed Bus Tour: May 20. Watch [our website](#) for more information on this informative close-up look at these two subwatersheds.



WMB Project Receives Award

The Carillon North Homeowners Association detention buffer project received [USEPA's 2010 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award](#).



Permit Approvals Go Paperless

SMC is now issuing electronic WDO permits to reduce operational expenses but also immediately provides the applicant with a copy of the approved permit and attachments.

See [WDO permit application](#) for fill-able application forms.

Links of Interest

[IDNR's Coastal Management Program](#)

[DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup](#)

[Midwest research shows that rain gardens work](#)

[ALERT Lake County](#)

[SMC's rain gauge network](#)

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